

REMARKS

I. Introduction and Interview Summary

In a non-final Office Action mailed on June 19, 2009, the Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and rejected claims 3, 10-12, and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,510 ("McGovern"), U.S. Patent No. 6,070,143 ("Barney"), and Non-Patent Literature O*Net 98 Data Dictionary ("ONET").

Applicant herein amends claims 3 and 10 to more clearly identify the subject matter for which applicant seeks protection. Claims 3, 10-12, and 30-35 are pending.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Daye for her consideration during the interview of September 21, 2009. During the interview, Examiner Daye and applicant's representative discussed the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Examiner Daye agreed that the recitation of "information recently contributed" provides antecedent basis for the definite reference to "recently contributed information." In addition, Examiner Daye and applicant's representative discussed some of the distinctions between the McGovern reference and independent claim 3. To help advance examination, Examiner Daye suggested that applicants clarify that the recited collection of occupational information provides summary occupational information rather than individual available job postings. Applicant thanks Examiner Daye for this helpful suggestion and have amended independent claims 3 and 10 as suggested. Examiner Daye requested that applicant's representative identify portions of applicant's specification that describe a summary of occupational information. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Figure 20B and paragraphs [0067], [0070], [0076], [0120], and [0125], for example. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner Daye contact the undersigned representative if she believes that any additional information regarding the interview is necessary. For reasons discussed in detail below, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, asserting that the definite reference to “recently contributed information” lacks antecedent basis (Office Action, June 19, 2009, pp. 2-3). However, claim 3 recites “providing access to information recently contributed via the publicly available web site, wherein the recently contributed information includes information contributed using questionnaire forms accessible from the publicly available web site” (emphasis added). Applicant submits that the recitation of “information recently contributed” provides antecedent basis for the definite reference to “recently contributed information.” Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 10-12, and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a combination of McGovern, Barney, and ONET. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each of the elements recited by independent claims 3 and 10.

The Examiner asserts that column 2, lines 1-8 and column 10, lines 37-56 of McGovern disclose “providing a publicly available web site for users of occupational information, wherein the publicly available web site allows the users of occupational information. . . to contribute information used to update the collection of occupational information” and “providing access to a questionnaire for receiving input from a user of the collection... and updating the collection of occupational information to include information extracted from the questionnaire” as recited by independent claims 3 and 10 respectively (Office Action, June 19, 2009, pp. 3-4; emphasis added). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of McGovern. McGovern is directed to an Internet job board that permits a hiring contact of a company to log onto the job board and post or update available jobs (McGovern 7:26-31, 52-57). McGovern

describes two job posting techniques. The first technique involves a company setting up its own web site on which various job openings are posted (*id.* 2:1-8). McGovern explains that the second technique is provided by its system, which automatically updates one or more designated job boards with an updated version of a job posting in response to a hiring contact editing the job posting (*id.* 10:37-56). Nowhere does McGovern disclose or suggest that its publicly available web site allows users to contribute information that is used to update a collection of occupational information. Indeed, McGovern makes clear that only a “logged on” hiring contact can upload a new job posting or edited an existing job posting (*id.* 7:26-31, 52-57). Moreover, Barney and ONET fail to disclose or suggest a publicly available web site to which users contribute information that is used to update a collection of occupational information. Since the cited references fail to disclose or teach allowing user to contribute information that is used to update a collection of occupational information, applicant submits that independent claims 3 and 10 are patentable over McGovern.

Although applicant believes that the pending claims are allowable as previously presented, to expedite examination, applicant has amended independent claims 3 and 10 to more clearly identify the subject matter for which applicant seeks protection. As amended, independent claims 3 and 10 recite that the method and system provide a collection of occupational summaries including occupational titles and data measures, and that the collection of occupational summaries do not include individual or particular available job postings or openings. For example, as amended, independent claim 3 recites “providing a publicly available web site for users of occupational summaries other than individual available job postings” (emphasis added) and independent claim 10 recites “providing end users with access to the collection of occupational summaries other than information specific to particular available job openings” (emphasis added). Occupational summaries, which are informative in nature, are different than job postings or openings, which contain information specific to individual available jobs. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed McGovern and Barney and submits that these references do not disclose or suggest providing occupational summaries, as

recited. Rather, they simply describe job boards containing individual available job postings. For at least these reasons, applicant submits that independent claims 3 and 10 are patentable over McGovern, Barney and ONET. The dependent claims also provide additional patentable distinctions, such as the various modified data measures of claims 30-32, and performing a statistical analysis relating to the worker measure information associated with the specified occupation of claim 33. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3, 10-12, and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of McGovern, Barney, and ONET.

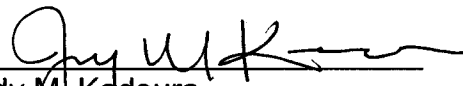
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8077.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 333628003US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 1, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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